

REGISTER OF CLASSIFICATION DECISIONS

Date of entry in Register: 21 December 2000
Name of applicant/court: Andrew Robert Berry
Applicant to the Labelling Body: Not Applicable
Title of Publication: The Terrorist's Handbook
Other Known Titles: Not Stated
Director: Not Applicable
Producer: Not Applicable
Publisher: Not Applicable
Author: Not Applicable
Format: Computer Printout
Country of Origin: Not Applicable
Language: English

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Components of film originally examined: Not Applicable.

Feature: Running time:
Trailers: Running time:
Total Running time:

Excision/Alteration: Not Applicable.

Reason(s) for Excision:

Not Applicable.

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Classification Decision:

Objectionable.

Display Conditions:

Not Applicable.

Descriptive Note:

Not Applicable.

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Direction to issue a label has been given on: Not Applicable.

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SUMMARY OF THE REASONS FOR DECISION:

The publication *The Terrorist's Handbook* is classified as:
Objectionable.

The Terrorist's Handbook consists of 73 typed pages of A4 in the style of a manual or unbound book and begins with an introduction and list of contents. The manual appears to have been downloaded from the internet, and appears to have been written and compiled in the United States.

A large proportion of the manual is given to instructions about how to create and ignite a wide variety of explosives and particular types of bomb. These range from Molotov Cocktails and light-bulb bombs to cannons and rockets. The manual gives detail about how to manufacture the necessary chemical compounds from ordinary household products. *The Terrorist's Handbook* has an distinct emphasis on chemical formulae and the technical aspects of constructing explosives. For many of these recipes some rudimentary chemical and technical knowledge and equipment is required. However, the skills needed for making many of the devices such as exploding light-bulbs are basic, and accessible to a wide range of people.

In this format the manual is intended to aid the construction of devices which have few if any legitimate purposes, and would be of considerable danger to the user and public alike as well as having a considerable anti-social value. Many of these devices can be used for an array of criminal acts as well as acts of terrorism. The occasional disclaimers that accompany the instructions are at cross purposes with the rest of the material, and therefore carry no weight. The manual therefore promotes and encourages criminal acts and acts of terrorism to such an extent and degree that its availability is likely to be injurious to the public good.

The provisions of the New Zealand Bill of Rights Act 1990 (NZBR Act) have been taken into account in determining this classification. However, given the extent, degree and manner in which the publication deals with matters of crime and violence, and in particular how it promotes and encourages criminal acts and acts of terrorism, *The Terrorist's Handbook* is objectionable. A classification of "objectionable" places a limit on the freedom of expression set out in s14 of the NZBR Act, but is considered to be a reasonable limit prescribed by law that can be demonstrably justified in a free and democratic society, given the nature of the harms involved.

OFLC Ref: 1859